

Join the 2025-2026 Hamden Chess Team



Hamden Chess Team is open to ages 8-17 of all rating levels, and is organized and led by National Master Jordan Groff (Coach Jordan). The team is for Scholastic chess players who wish to play in larger, regional USCF tournaments in CT and surrounding states during the course of the year. Team members have opportunities to win trophies and cash prizes throughout the year. While chess competition is largely an individual effort, it is fun to have the camaraderie of team members at the larger tournaments. Team members won various trophies during the year, increased their individual USCF ratings by an average of 250 points and won several thousand dollars in cumulative prizes each year since our inaugural team in 2023.



Team members will receive the following benefits:

- **Pizza/"Prep Rally" the Sunday before each tournament from 4:00-7:00 PM* at Play More Chess Academy (1227 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT).** Lesson with Coach Jordan followed by training games between teammates and pizza! Team members are encouraged to attend these training events even if it doesn't suit them to go to the following week's tournament.
- **Team Camaraderie:** Team members can hang out between rounds at tournaments and review games. Big tournaments can be intimidating for newer players, but being with a group of friends will help a lot.
- **Team Shirts**

2025-2026 Hamden Chess Team Schedule

Upcoming Tournaments and Training-Pizza/Prep Rallies

Team members are encouraged to attend as many tournaments/Training-Prep Rallies as they can. Team members are encouraged to come to the Training-Pizza/Prep Rallies even if it doesn't suit them to go to the following week's tournament.

Our tournament and training schedule will be as follows:

2025-2026 Dates*	Tournament	Location
Jul 20, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Jul 25-27 (or 26-27), 2025	30th Bradley Open	Hartford, CT
Sept 21, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Sept 27-28, 2025	Hamden Chess Fall Classic	Hamden, CT
Oct 5, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Oct. 10-12 (or 11-12), 2025	Hartford Open	Windsor Locks, CT
Nov 2, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Nov 9 (Sun) TBD. in development *	CT State Championship	TBD. check CSCA page , CT
Dec 28, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Jan. 2-4; (or 3-4), 2026	14th Annual Boston Chess Congress	Boston, MA
Jan 12, 2026	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Jan 16-19, 2026	Liberty Bell Open	Philadelphia, PA
Mar 15, 2026	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Mar 21-22, 2026	Hamden Chess Club Championship	Hamden, CT
Mar 29, 2026	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Apr 1-5; (or 2-5; or 3-5), 2026	Princeton Open	Princeton, NJ
May 31, 2026	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Jun 5-7 (or 6-7), 2026	Eastern Class Championships	Windsor Locks, CT

*Dates subject to change. Most likely tournament dates as of 4/24/25. There will be a Training- Pizza/Prep Rally the Sunday before each tournament date. Feb 8 will be from 3pm-6pm to finish before the Super Bowl (one hour earlier than usual).

Sign up for Hamden Chess Team at PMCA or online at playmorechess.com